

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending September 16, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, and Granny Smith Harvests Were Underway
Range and Pastures Continued Drought Conditions**

FIELD CROPS

Cereal grain harvest was completed with winter wheat planting underway. Dry conditions slowed winter wheat planting in some eastern Washington counties and most planting was deep furrow seeding due to the lack of moisture. Turfgrass growers continued to prepare fields for fall planting. Christmas tree growers prepared trees for harvest. Flower growers were liming fields for spring. Pumpkin harvest began with smaller size reported due to the cool, wet spring. Sweet corn, onion, mint, and potato harvests continued.

LIVESTOCK

The third cutting of alfalfa was winding down with a few acres to be completed. Some producers were harvesting a fourth cutting of alfalfa. Range and pasture conditions continued to decline from lack of precipitation. Concern of feed shortages caused many cattle operations to cull herds. Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 50% poor, and 30% fair.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Warm weather was conducive to fruit development. Gala apple harvest gave way to Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, and Granny Smith harvests this past week. Nectarine, peach, D'Anjou pear, hop, and wine grape harvests continued. Flower growers reported outstanding dahlia sales at Olympia Farmers' Markets. General vegetable harvests continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
7	6.8

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	30	57	13	-
Subsoil	26	60	14	-
Irrigation Water	10	10	80	-
Hay and Roughage	5	20	75	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	58	29	37	49
Winter Wheat Emerged	25	0	16	24
Spring Wheat Harvested	100	96	100	99
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	99	100	100
Barley Harvested	100	97	100	99
Potatoes Harvested	35	30	40	36
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	99	97	96	96
Dry Beans Harvested	30	20	35	32

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	10	90	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

Washington State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Michael Tate
Dean/Director, Coop Extension

USDA
Farm Service Agency
James F. Fitzgerald
State Director

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
Doug Hasslen - State Statistician
Jim Johnson - Ag Statistician
Michelle Fox - Ag Statistician

COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: Late summer weather conditions were normal. Harvest of seed crops and corn will begin soon. All crops are expected to have a good harvest. There were no reports of problems with crops.

Grays Harbor: Agricultural producers enjoyed another week of beautiful autumn weather. Spring flower bulb growers were liming fields. Christmas tree growers continued with topwork on Noble fir plantations. Pumpkin growers complained about smaller than normal pumpkins due to the cold, wet spring. Commercial dahlia growers were doing a booming business selling blooms at the Olympia Farmer's Market. The sweet corn was looking very good, with harvest slated to begin within the next two weeks.

Pierce/South King: The weather remained favorable for farmers in the area. The harvesting

of the vegetable crops remained strong. Pastures looked good. There were no unusual situations to report.

Snohomish/King: Pleasant late summer weather benefitted harvest activities. The mornings and evenings were cooler, as expected. All crops looked good, with no reports of crop damage.

Thurston: Another week of warm, dry weather provided ideal conditions for farm activities. Turfgrass growers continued cultivating fields for fall seeding. Dairy producers continued pumping lagoons and applying liquid manure to forage fields. Christmas tree growers were shearing Douglas fir. Livestock producers were clipping wild carrot blossoms in hay fields. Home gardeners were enjoying bountiful supplies of fresh vegetables.

CENTRAL

Benton: Harvest continued for apples, wine grapes, hops, and summer vegetables under optimum conditions. Concord grape harvest is expected to start this week. Conditions remained extremely dry.

Chelan/Douglas: Pear harvest was nearly complete. Only the winter pears, at highest elevations, remained to be picked. Excellent quality was reported. Harvest progressed well. Apple harvest has moved from Galas to Golden Delicious. Quality looked excellent. Red Delicious apples, which constitutes about 40 percent of the crop, will not be harvested until late September and early October. Fuji apples will be harvested in late October. Overall, the production of apples appears to be the lowest since the early 1990's. Growers remain optimistic.

Franklin: Dryland winter wheat was seeded into limited moisture. There were concerns about the lack of moisture. Temperatures appeared to have been slightly warmer than normal during the day, which provided longer days for farm work. Apples were being harvested. The fourth cutting of hay was beginning, in the southern part of the county. All other late season crops proceeded normally.

Grant: Onion and sweet corn harvest continued.

Mint harvest also continued. The fourth cutting of alfalfa progressed. Dryland wheat was emerging. Gala apple harvest was nearly complete. Soft fruit harvest finished up. Red Delicious apple harvest slowly got underway. Granny Smith apple harvest began.

Kittitas: Continued hot, dry weather has not been good on lower elevation pastures and rangelands. Corn harvest continued and potato harvest began. The second cutting of timothy hay was underway.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Sweet corn harvest was complete, with average yields. The second cutting of timothy hay was underway, where sufficient irrigation water was available. The third cutting of alfalfa was complete. Apple picking progressed. Range and pasture conditions worsened with the continued warm weather. Rain is needed.

Yakima: The weather continued to be conducive to fruit development and harvest operations. Gala apple harvest was complete, while Golden Delicious apple harvest was underway. D'Anjou pears, nectarines, and peaches continued to be harvested.

EASTERN

Asotin/Garfield: The weather was still very dry. Rain is needed.

Lincoln: Most harvest operations were complete. There was still some standing green grain in draws. Seeding operations varied around the county, from some being complete with their seeding, while others were just getting started. The lack of pasture and hay plus poor conditions was still a concern for livestock producers. There was no precipitation in the county during the week.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The weather conditions remained the same. The weather was very warm for the month of September and contributed no precipitation. Harvest was mostly complete, with

a few isolated draws and parts of fields remaining to be harvested. A few producers in Spokane County started to seed winter wheat, but most were holding off. Pasture and range continued to be very short. Culling of livestock was taking place.

Stevens: The past week brought higher than normal temperatures, with no precipitation.

Whitman: Fieldwork continued throughout the week, but seeding of winter wheat was limited to deep furrow seeding in the western portion of the county. Extremely dry conditions prevailed and rain is badly needed.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

September 17, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	43	72	58	-1	55	-4	0	-7	0.00	-0.42	0	30.09	-7.09	81	152
Everett	51	76	62	4	82	20	17	8	0.00	-0.49	0	26.46	-11.21	70	149
Hoquiam	46	68	55	-6	40	-35	0	-14	0.00	-0.73	0	46.82	-22.81	67	172
Kelso	46	81	64	4	103	24	34	13	0.00	-0.55	0	20.97	-26.90	44	130
Olympia	41	80	61	3	76	16	11	3	0.00	-0.50	0	32.50	-19.36	63	146
Seattle-Tacoma	51	77	63	2	89	9	25	6	0.00	-0.42	0	27.37	-10.86	72	136
Shelton	43	80	61	0	78	2	16	-3	0.00	-0.59	0	44.49	-21.88	67	153
Tacoma	43	81	62	2	85	13	18	4	0.00	-0.42	0	26.74	-14.61	65	136
Vancouver	50	86	68	8	130	54	60	41	0.00	-0.47	0	24.24	-18.22	57	147
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	91	68	10	130	60	60	40	0.00	-0.14	0	7.31	-1.96	79	74
Omak	57	92	74	16	171	103	101	82	0.00	-0.21	0	6.20	-9.36	40	68
Stampede Pass	49	77	62	13	87	65	22	22	0.00	-0.76	0	55.79	-27.21	67	176
Wenatchee	55	91	73	9	163	60	93	53	0.00	-0.08	0	5.76	-2.83	67	69
Yakima AP	45	92	70	10	144	60	74	46	0.00	-0.08	0	5.08	-3.17	62	65
NORTHEAST															
Colville	40	97	68	11	125	64	58	42	0.00	-0.28	0	13.45	-8.46	61	83
Deer Park	35	90	65	6	106	34	37	13	0.00	-0.21	0	13.56	-5.49	71	118
Spokane AP	48	89	69	10	135	63	65	41	0.00	-0.18	0	10.53	-6.45	62	102
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	49	94	75	10	176	65	106	60	0.00	-0.10	0	5.32	-2.12	72	71
Moses Lake	46	93	71	6	148	37	78	32	0.00	-0.10	0	6.61	-0.83	89	67
Quincy	49	92	73	10	161	69	91	58	0.00	-0.12	0	5.19	-2.96	64	58
Ritzville	47	92	71	10	147	68	77	52	0.00	-0.14	0	10.39	-1.25	89	78
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	95	75	7	179	45	109	44	0.00	-0.07	0	6.24	-0.47	93	66
Pasco	43	93	70	5	143	35	73	28	0.00	-0.07	0	7.97	0.25	103	75
Pullman	42	89	65	7	108	42	38	18	0.00	-0.21	0	13.19	-8.44	61	107
Walla Walla AP	53	91	74	9	167	55	97	49	0.00	-0.21	0	15.46	-4.55	77	96
Whitman Mission	38	92	68	6	125	39	55	24	0.00	-0.14	0	14.10	0.00	100	102
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	41	90	69	8	132	50	62	35	0.00	-0.28	0	16.87	-9.80	63	106
Lewiston ID	53	94	75	11	175	68	105	59	0.00	-0.19	0	11.85	-1.05	92	105

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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